



## News Notes

**C-17 arrives** – Hickam's second C-17 arrives Tuesday during a ceremony hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard at 12:45 p.m. All of Team Hickam is invited to attend the ceremony at base operations.

**Recognition** – The 15th Airlift Wing commander wants to thank the members of Team Hickam who go above and beyond in improving the quality of life at Hickam.

Anyone who identifies facility problems, or who takes the time to improve some part of our installation is eligible for coupons good at various Services outlets. The coupon books will be passed out to unit first sergeants.

**Scuba diving** – The Island Divers Hawaii is offering a free discover scuba diving weekend. Three sessions are available Saturday at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

To reserve a spot, call 423-8222 or stop by the dive center next to the fitness center. Space is limited, so reserve a spot today.

**Electrical outage** – An electrical outage is scheduled for Saturday at Fort Kamehameha Housing, the Hawaii Air National Guard buildings, Mamala Bay Golf Course, building 1072 and 1073, and the fire training facility from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Henry Wong at 448-7845.

**Trespassing** – The Combat Arms small arms range, located on Schofield Barracks, is off limits to everyone except those scheduled for training.

Trespassing is not only illegal, but also potentially dangerous due to the presence of gunfire. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Shaun Hermes at 655-5086.

**Scholarship** – The Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant is available to Air  
**See NOTES, A5**

### In this week's Kukini



#### Center offers basket weaving class B1

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# Hickam chief saves Soldier

By Kirsten Tacker  
Kukini Photojournalist

Chief Master Sergeant Dan Rose, 154th Maintenance Squadron hunted for more than three hours, in six-foot seas for Army Private First Class Chris Montana thrown from his jet ski.

The winds blew Hickam Beach waters like a washing machine and the Coast Guard was running low on fuel with two helicopters, three boats and a few civilian boats.

In water peppered with sharks, most concluded the outcome would be grim for the 25 year-old husband and father.

"I guess the guys he was with were racing out there and by the time they turned around to look, he was gone and the jet ski came floating by," said

Chief Rose. "The kid said he could hear them talking, but couldn't see them because the waves were so big.

"He was yelling and screaming and they couldn't find him," he continued. "They looked for more than a half hour before they called me."

Coast Guard's Lt. Cmdr. Rick Decker was to meet the jet skiing group for some fun out in the water, but as soon as Lt. Cmdr. Decker saw the unmanned jet ski he called the Coast Guard and 911.

"Then he started calling all his friends he knew had boats," said Chief Rose. "We just happened to be friends from Sea Lancers Dive club here, so he called me up. He knew my boat was in the water all the time and that I was fairly accessible."

By chance that day, Chief Rose was nearby working on a friend's boat.

"We are out there all the time, so we know how the waters go," said Chief Rose. "My friend Vick was with me and we were talking. We said the jet ski is going to float faster than a body or a person in the water."

They opted to take a straight Global Positioning System shot directly back toward the harbor buoy and after almost four hours of searching for Pfc. Montana, he was rescued.

"We threw him a life preserver and my friend Vick jumped in to help him onto the boat," said Chief Rose. "He may not have been able to last much longer, he was getting pretty tired."

Treading water after Pfc. Montana lost his life preserver, he was dehydrat-

ed, tired and didn't have much time left.

"He told me he had a life preserver, but he didn't when we picked him up," said Chief Rose. "He said he had one when the Coast Guard boats were going by waving the preserver and he threw it up in the air to get their attention, but lost it."

Only seeing a lot of rough water, Chief Rose stood twenty feet up in the air on his tuna tower with the autopilot on. Thankfully, he finally saw Pfc. Montana waving.

"We just happened on him," said Chief Rose. "I was standing up on my tuna tower and it was just like finding a needle in a haystack. He was hard to

**See SAVES, A5**

## HIANG takes NFL players on mission

By Staff Sgt. Betty Squatrito-Martin  
154th Wing Public Affairs

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 203rd Air Refueling Squadron took four members of the National Football League on a mid-air refueling training mission with the 199th Fighter Squadron's F-15s here Saturday.

The NFL all-stars, Neil Rackers, Shayne Graham, Bob Sanders and Cato June, visited the 203 ARS and witnessed various aspects of the flying mission.

During the refueling, Chief Master Sgt. Warren Faurot mesmerized the NFL players as he maneuvered the boom and successfully made contact with the F-15.

The players were impressed with the precision required to perform an air refuelling operation. It's like a game winning kick, you only get one shot, said Rackers, kicker for the Arizona Cardinals. Seeing how close and how precise the boom operator has to be to transfer the fuel is amazing, added Rackers.

For others, the coordination between the KC-135 pilot, the boom operator and the F-15 pilot was remarkable. "I thought it was great



Photo by Staff Sgt. Betty Squatrito-Martin

**Bob Sanders, Indianapolis Colts Free Safety, joins boomer, Chief Master Sgt. Warren Faurot in the boom**

watching them (crew members) all get in sync and pull it all together," said Sanders, free safety for the Indianapolis Colts.

"Getting to see behind the scenes of an air refuelling is not something just anybody gets to see. Now I can explain how they refuel,"

said June, outside linebacker for the Indianapolis Colts.

In addition to the air refuelling, the NFL players experienced the 203rd's version of a video game. Graham, kicker for the Cincinnati Bengals, volunteered to "jump" from an airplane.

Graham strapped into a sta-

**pod to get a bird's ey view of the air refuel contact between the KC-135 and the F-15.**

tionary harness and donned a virtual reality helmet used to train pilots how to eject from their aircraft. By looking through the goggles, Graham was able to see the virtual landing area. Through the direction of Senior Airman Ryan Hunt, Graham managed to maneuver the parachute to

land within 200 feet of the designated target.

The next designated target for the NFL players was Aloha Stadium where they entertained the locals at the Pro-bowl. According to the players, following the Pro-Bowl, it is off to months of personal training.

## What filers should bring to tax center appointment

By Capt. Jennifer Osborne  
15th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate's office

The Hickam Tax Center is now open. To make a Tax Center appointment go smoothly, the following information is necessary to prepare and electronically file a return.

Tax filers should bring the following information with them to their appointment:

**Wages:** W-2 Forms for all 2005 employers for each taxpayer (Military: download on MyPay). If a taxpayer worked as a contract employee (for example, stocking shelves at the

commissary), bring that person's Form 1099.

**Identification:** Active Duty and retirees: Military ID card. Dependents: Social Security Cards. If a dependent does not have or is ineligible for a SSN, bring their Tax Identification Number.

Birth dates of all dependents.

**Child Care:** Information on any child care providers, including names, addresses, social security numbers, (or employer identification numbers), and the total amount paid to each provider.

**Interest and dividend income:** All Form 1099s from any source whatsoever.

These include: 1099-R (pensions, traditional IRAs, annuities), 1099-INT (for interest income from, for example, bank savings), 1099-Div (for dividend and distributions), 1099-B (proceeds from broker and barter exchange transactions), and 1099-G (Government payments, for example a state tax refund).

**Retirees:** If the filers have a Social Security Statement from the Social Security Administration, bring the statement as some of the benefits may be taxable.

**Personal residence and rental property:** Bring

**See TAX CENTER, A5**

## NCO Academy Class 06-1 Graduation

By Senior Master Sgt. Tammy Whitney-Rush  
Professional Military Education Center Director of Education

The Hickam Professional Military Education Center hosted the graduation banquet for NCO Academy Class 06-1 Wednesday at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. Col. Albert Bowley, commander of the College of Enlisted Professional Military Education at Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Annex, Ala., was the guest speaker for the event.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Martin, Det. 624th, 62nd Field Investigation Squadron, garnered top honors as the John L. Levitow Award recipient.

Tech. Sgt. Zak Petrovic, 352nd Information Operations Squadron, earned the Commandant Award. Tech. Sgt. Evan Downey, U.S. Pacific Command, earned the Academic Achievement and the Distinguished Graduate Awards. Other Distinguished Graduates included Tech. Sgt. Dale Bullock, 15th Maintenance Operations Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Ricky Bouse Pacific Air Forces, Tech. Sgt. Michael Flint, PACAF Computer Systems Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Chris Williamson, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

During the 28-day course, the students were adminis-

**See GRADUATION, A5**



# Hickam welcomes Tuskegee Airmen

By Col. Bill "Goose" Changose  
15th Airlift Wing commander

Every February since 1926, our nation takes time to recognize the rich history of African Americans and the contributions and sacrifices this group has made in ensuring the safety and the greatness of America. Those of us who wear the uniform understand the unique demands our nation places on its defenders and the singular pride that comes with being called and being ready to answer that call.

I can think of no better time to recognize a group of men who embodied the principles of duty, honor, and service to country. These men were called, and our nation is grateful that they answered the call readily, willingly, and decisively. These men are known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

At a time when black men and women did not enjoy the same freedoms and privileges as the rest of the country, these men saw the promise of America. They saw the promise of liberty, equality, and justice and they were willing to fight and die to preserve and advance this promise. The accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 332nd Fighter Group are a matter of legend and history. Their successes were integral to advancing our



Photo by Mark Bates

**Jeane Turner, Hickam Officer's Spouses Club president, Phoebe Changose, HOSC advisor, Col. Bill "Goose" Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, Mindy Chesnut, HOSC advisor, pose for a picture during the opening of the Porter Playground.**

war effort and they paved the way for further integration of black Americans not only in the United States Armed Forces but in many other sectors of our society.

We were fortunate this week to have several of the original Tuskegee Airmen visit Team Hickam. These men have lived the warrior ethos, they have faced fear, danger, and distrust, and they triumphed beyond all expectations. Ours is a culture that looks for heroes. Our calling in

particular makes heroes necessary; they give us the example of how soldiers should behave in the face of adversity, how we should face danger, and how we should accept victory.

We are fortunate that our pantheon of heroes includes so many Americans who have been so willing to sacrifice all in the service of their country. We are thankful that our nation's roll call of heroes includes the Tuskegee Airmen.

## Dear Jag

## Protect against identity theft

**Question:** How do I protect myself from identity theft?

**Answer:** Instead of just keeping our fingers crossed, and hoping we don't fall victim to identity theft, there are precautions we can all take to minimize our exposure to this increasingly popular crime. Those who find themselves victims of identity theft can also take action to limit damages. Failure to take proactive measures against identity theft could lead to severe financial and emotional repercussions for years.

There are several precautions, which will make you a much less attractive target to the thief. Implementing these safety measures can significantly increase the likelihood that an identity thief will bypass you for some other less protected prey. The list includes, but is not limited to:

- Shred all documents containing financial and other personal information.
- Do not provide financial information over the phone or Internet, unless you initiated the contact. Never send personal information over unsecured websites.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox and deposit your mail in a post office collection box.
- Always keep purses or wallets in a safe place.
- Do not use simple PIN codes, such as birth dates, phone numbers, or consecutive numbers. Always be aware of

your surroundings when keying in a PIN number.

- If a credit/debit card is lost or stolen, report it immediately.
- Install virus protection and firewall programs onto your computer.

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, there are four important steps you need to take immediately. First, place an alert on all three of the consumer credit reporting agencies:

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
- Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN; [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

This first step can help prevent the thief from opening more accounts in your name. Also, once you place a fraud alert on your file, you are entitled to free copies of your credit report. Review the report for any other suspicious activity. Second, close the tampered with accounts. Third, file a report with the local police. Finally, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission ([www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft); 1-877-IDTHEFT).

Taking proactive measures and remaining vigilant in the fight against identity theft is imperative. Unfortunately, nothing can guarantee that you won't fall victim to an identity thief. Nonetheless, implementing these preventive steps will go a long way in preventing this crime from ever occurring.

# Couples can prevent marital trouble if they compromise

By Chaplain (Capt.) David DePinho  
15th Airlift Wing Chaplain office

People regularly come to see me and the other chaplains for help in their marriages. After all, chaplains are safe people to talk to. If you don't give written permission for a chaplain to share information you shared with them, then they are duty bound to take it to the grave with them. People don't mind sharing with a person who gives them that kind of confidentiality.

How do chaplains counsel? Chaplains offer decision-making tools and give people options for making things better. We usually have some training and have read a lot, but our greatest training comes from talking to people in the midst of marital problems. With more than 20 years of counseling others and receiving marital counseling myself, I've learned a lot.

I've learned that no marriage can survive a conditional commitment. When I was in college I remember a classmate who told me they were getting married soon. I asked, "Are you sure you're ready?" She said, "If it doesn't work out, I can always get a divorce." She was divorced within a year. She had made a conditional commitment, and as a result she was her marriage's worst enemy.

Marriage is designed for life and the sacrifices required to make it work are built on a lifetime commitment. If divorce is an option when things are difficult, you will

use it. Why would your spouse make sacrifices without being sure you're not going to punch out? Take divorce off the table and you'll be amazed at the energy it gives you to work things out.

The second thing I've learned is the root problem for marital difficulties is often selfishness and a lack of humility. How can you know if you're selfish in your marriage? You are concerned primarily with your own needs. Marriage is successful when we are willing to die for the other person while at the same time being honest with our spouse about our own needs. Be honest about your needs but recognize your spouse will not be able to meet them all and compromise is the name of the game.

If, deep down, you care about your spouse as much as you care about yourself, you will treat them with dignity and respect. Love doesn't practice manipulation, lying, sneaking, or using. Give yourself a gut check and ask how much of your marital difficulties are from your own selfishness? Change your own behavior and your marriage will improve significantly. Be willing to ask for forgiveness.

Asking for help and asking for forgiveness are humbling. We are ashamed to admit we are part of the problem or that we need help. We say, "I don't need to see a counselor, I can handle it." And "I'm not the only one at fault here." Asking for forgiveness, getting help and seeking advice are the strengths of

a mature person and demonstrate real love for your spouse.

If you are not already married you should know that people who get pre-marital counseling have a significantly lower divorce rate. If a person gets pre-marital counseling, they are declaring and practicing their willingness to get help later if needed.

Finally, don't wait until you're ready to leave the marriage to get help. Think of counseling as a checkup when you aren't feeling well. Don't be like the person who waited so long to see the doctor that the disease was too far gone to do anything about it.

Use counseling sooner rather than later. When you see an unhealthy pattern start, rather than waiting after months and months of suffering, get counseling. And remember the longer you wait to get help, the longer the recovery will likely be. If it took you years to get into difficulty, it might take significant effort and time to develop the habits to restore health to your marriage.

A final illustration: The Bird Flu is terrifying people right now since it has a 50 percent death rate for those who contract the disease. So when people think they might have Bird Flu they run to doctors for help. Well, marriages are now running at a 50 percent divorce rate (death rate). Don't risk the death of your marriage to preserve a false pride or escape embarrassment. If you have the symptoms of marital stress, run to a counselor.

## Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first.

If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to [15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil](mailto:15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil).

### Main gate traffic

**Question:** Much too often, immediately after entering through the main gate using the center or far left hand lane, drivers make an illegal lane change by cutting across O'Malley Blvd to take Vandenberg Blvd. It doesn't seem to matter to them that the traffic lanes are marked with solid white lines or that they cut off other people.

When using the far right lane, I have come close to having my vehicle struck on more than one occasion by drivers who choose to cut across traffic lanes like this and have witnessed others who have incurred similar circumstances.

Anyway, my recommendation is to be safe, simple and inexpensive.

sive solution is place rubber stanchions on the right side of the center lane parallel to the Vandenberg Boulevard turn off to prevent drivers from making an illegal lane change and substantially reducing the possibility of a collision.

**Comment:** Thanks for voicing your concern and for your recommendation. At one time we had permanent stanchions attached to the ground to prevent vehicles in the center and far left lane from crossing multiple lanes to get to Vandenberg. However, the stanchions became a high maintenance item because vehicles kept hitting them. Additionally, turns into the visitor center from O'Malley outbound and unauthorized vehicles needing to turn around were hindered.

The area directly behind the guard stand is striped to prohibit lane changes. If you're in the center or far left lane entering the base then you must travel down O'Malley Blvd. The lane that gives you the option of going down O'Malley or down Vandenberg towards the BXtra complex is the right lane.

This is a problem that can be remedied if motorists entering Hickam via the main gate obey the rules of the road as this will definitely minimize the possibility of vehicle accidents. Thanks again for bringing this to our attention.

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to [hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil](mailto:hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil).

### Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center  
**449-0300**  
Life Skills Support Center  
**449-0175**  
Law Enforcement Desk  
**449-6373**  
Base Chaplain  
**449-1754**  
Military Family Abuse Shelter  
**533-7125**  
SARC Hotline  
**449-7272**



# Airman inducted into Army order

**By Capt. Yvonne Levardi**  
Kenney Headquarters (P) Public Affairs

To Army artillerymen engaged in a fire-fight, an embedded Air Force forward air controller who can save lives by directing close air support is a blessing.

Recently, Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (Light) praised their good fortune on the battlefield by welcoming a Kenney Headquarters officer into an order of artillerymen few Airmen have ever heard of.

Lt. Col. Kevin Cole, chief of Kenney's Exercises and Plans Division, was inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara along with 27 Soldiers during the 25 ID's annual Saint Barbara's Ball Jan. 20.

Named in honor of the patron saint of artillerymen and awarded by the U.S. Army Field Artillery Association, The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest stan-

dards of integrity; displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence and contributed to the promotion of the field artillery in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers.

"It was a wonderful surprise," said Colonel Cole, who previously served as the commander of the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron providing forward air controllers and air liaison officers in support of the 25th ID headquartered at nearby Schofield Barracks. A native of Kennewick, Wash., the 21-year Air Force Veteran was recognized by the Army for his efforts while deployed to Afghanistan.

"Our mission was to coordinate airpower to support Army joint coalition operations," said Colonel Cole who was in command of 60 Air Force, Air National Guard and U.S. Marine Corps tactical air controllers, weather and support personnel while stationed at Bagram Air Base. "We lived with and fought

side-by-side with the Army units in the field, embedding two to four ground forward air controllers with an infantry company to call in and control the air strikes as needed."

While Airmen protected Soldiers in the field, Colonel Cole worked alongside Army Lt. Col. Jack Pritchard, chief of Joint Fires for Combined Joint Task Force-76, to closely coordinate air-ground operations.

"We had a unique joint relationship," Colonel Pritchard said. "Joint Fires was his business and he did it well. Air controllers are absolutely critical. Most units today don't go outside the wire without one. Through Colonel Cole's direct efforts, we were often able to get air assets overhead within minutes – something that our ground forces greatly appreciated and came to expect."

The close coordination of the air-ground operations between the two colonels enabled the extensive use of close air support throughout Afghanistan, mostly in support of troops in contact with enemy forces.

"When you are working with fighters, bombers, helicopter gunships and cannon fire it can get very intense," Colonel Cole said. "Working together, we de-conflicted aircraft, helicopter and artillery fires and did not have a single fratricide episode the entire time we were there."

Colonel Pritchard nominated Colonel Cole for the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara—an honor bestowed upon fewer than 10 Airmen annually.

"Lt. Col. Kevin Cole represents the U.S. Air Force very well," he said. "His success in Afghanistan is a reflection of his hard work, dedication to his Airmen and his 'One Team' attitude."

"Working with the Army in both Iraq and Afghanistan, I have truly seen what joint operations and the application of airpower coupled with artillery can do in a wartime environment," Colonel Cole said. "To be honored by my fellow comrades-in-arms is the greatest accolade one can have."

## Future Hawaii leaders get inside look at C-17

**By 1st Lt. Renee Lee**  
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

A group of Hawaii's next generation of future leaders got a first-hand look at the Spirit of Hawaii, Ke Aloha here Feb. 10.

These 25 future island leaders, members of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Pacific Century Fellows (PCF) Program, toured and learned about the new C-17 Globemaster, which made its debut here just two days before.

Modeled after the White House Fellows Program, the PCF program identifies, encourages and helps develop future island leaders, who are selected from a competitive pool of bright individuals in the early and mid-stages of their careers. The nine-month program provides the Fellows with direct contact with senior community, social, and government leaders. Once a month, they learn about a particular subject such as education, government and the military.

After touring facilities at Schofield Barracks and hearing briefings at Camp Smith, the Fellows arrived here to be greeted by Col. Scott Chestnut, 15th Airlift Wing Vice Commander, and later by members of the 15th AW Operations Group and the 535th Airlift Squadron.

Lt. Col. Albert Couillard, 15th Operations Group Deputy Commander, led the Fellows on

the C-17 tour.

"It's important to take every opportunity to show the public what the Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard can bring to the island of Hawaii and better informing them on missions of the crew," he said.

The aircraft surprised many of the Fellows, even though many had seen the extensive media coverage the aircraft received that week.

"It was actually smaller than I expected and that appears to be one of its strengths," said Eric Elind of Schlack Ito Lockwood Piper & Elkind, LLC. "...the C-17's most valuable trait is its flexibility...it appears to be ideal for handling a variety of military and humanitarian tasks."

"I was astounded with the size and capability of the plane," said Rachael Wong, Project Coordinator, Kokua Mau. "I left reaffirmed about the C-17's stewardship and that it will be used to save lives."

The aircraft is "really well designed and amazing," said Wren Wescoatt, Executive Director, College Connections. "It illustrates the new concept of the military. It's multi purpose and modular...it's built to do a lot of different things."

"I'm still in awe," said Jeff Chung, General Manager, KBFD TV. "I'm really surprised at the load that the C-17 can carry."

Although impressive to all, the

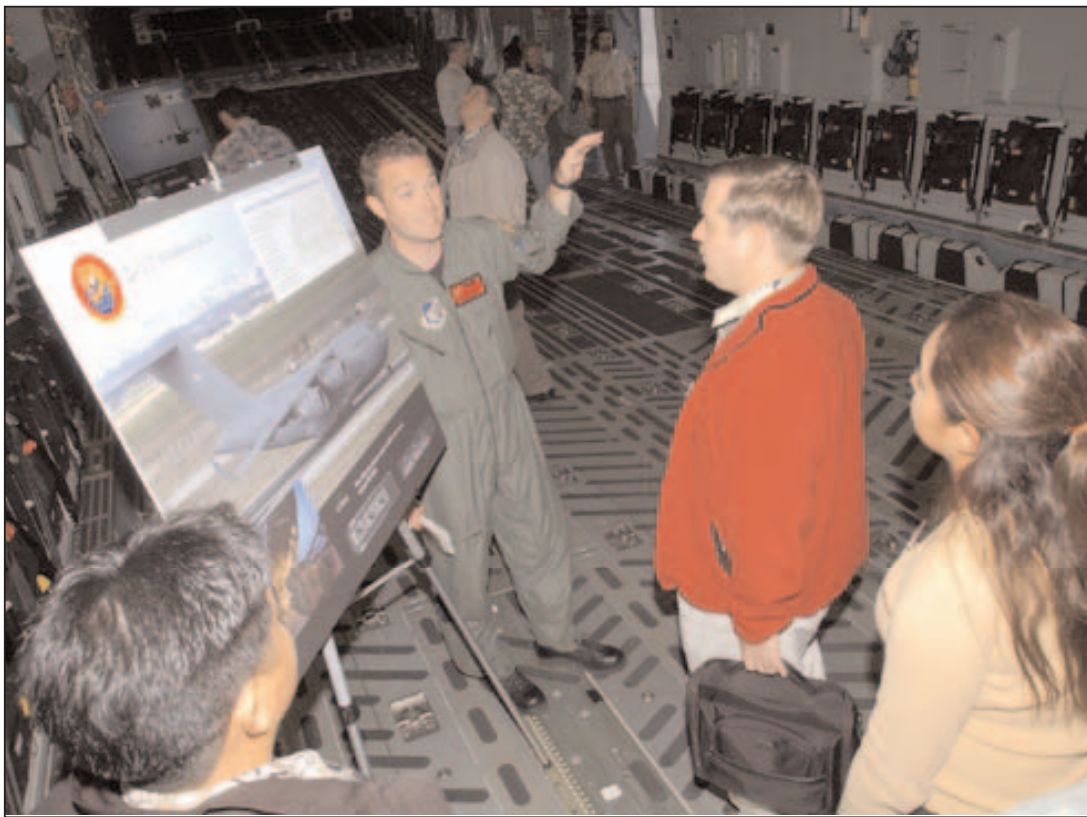


Photo by Oscar Hernandez

**cutline**  
**cutline**

Fellows could not but help notice the professionalism of the Airmen who showed them around the Ke Aloha.

They "really love their job and their enthusiasm shows through," said Charlyn Dote, Program

Manager, PCF. "When we were on the plane, that enthusiasm and love for what they do for the military really come through...there is such passion and commitment."

"The C-17 is an impressive

high-tech, high-flying machine," said Selena Ching, Executive Director, Hawaii Youth Symphony. "But the best thing for me was seeing and hearing the enthusiasm and pride of the Air Force members who operate it."

## TRICARE offers vision benefits

**By Mark Jecker**  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

No matter how well service members test on the annual eye exam, it's easy to be a little unclear about vision care. Reading every policy governing TRICARE's eye and vision benefits can leave one cross-eyed.

But here's a looking glass into the policies that won't leave anyone red-eyed.

### 'Just the facts, ma'am'

Key facts about TRICARE's eye and vision coverage:

- TRICARE Standard, Extra and Prime active duty family members are eligible for one routine eye exam per year.
- Prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses are not a covered TRICARE benefit, except under very limited circumstances, such as corneal lens removal or treatment of infantile glaucoma.

- All Prime enrollees are eligible for enhanced wellness benefit to include an eye examination every two years and does not require a co-payment. Note: For Eye examinations to be covered they must be performed by a TRICARE network optometrist or ophthalmologist. No referral is needed when seeking care from a TRICARE network provider.

- Eye care of children up to age six is evaluated by their health care practitioners as part of the well-child benefit. The provider performs periodic eye and vision screenings for the child. (Newborn screening is covered under the mother's maternity benefit.)

- Children between ages three and six are covered for two comprehensive eye examinations, which include screening for two common childhood disorders: amblyopia and strabismus (commonly referred to as "lazy eye").

- All TRICARE-eligible benefi-

ciaries are covered for medically necessary eye examinations provided in connection with the medical/surgical treatment of a TRICARE-covered illness or injury. All beneficiaries are also covered for screenings for any pathology, including refractive error. Standard or Extra beneficiaries are responsible for the appropriate cost-share and deductible for these services. Those using TRICARE Prime require a referral for medically necessary eye examinations.

- Retired service members and their families have no eye benefits under TRICARE Standard or Extra.

- Diabetic TRICARE beneficiaries of any age are encouraged to have an eye exam every year and are allowed an annual comprehensive eye examination.

Visit [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) or [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) or call 1-888-TRIWEST (1-800-874-9378) for more information.

## Sipping Success: Switching baby from bottle to cup

As soon as teeth appear in the mouth, decay can occur. One of the risk factors for early childhood tooth decay – sometimes called baby bottle tooth decay – is frequent and prolonged exposure to liquids such as fruit juice, milk or formula, which all contain sugar. When a baby is put to bed with a bottle the liquid can pool in the child's mouth exposing the teeth to sugar for extended periods.

By their first birthday children should be encouraged to drink from a cup, and many training or "sippy" cups are available in stores. However, the Hickam Dental Clinic provides several important words of caution. First, many are "no spill" cups with a valve beneath the spout to prevent leaks. The child drinks by sucking on the cup, much like a baby

bottle. Although convenient for parents, this defeats the purpose of using a training cup, since it prevents the child from learning to sip.

Do not allow a child to carry a training cup around. Toddlers are often unsteady on their feet and falling while drinking from a cup has the potential to injure the mouth.

A training cup should be used temporarily. Once a child has learned to sip, the training cup should be set aside.

Talk to a dentist for more information. The American Dental Association recommends the first dental visit occur within six months of the appearance of the first tooth, and no later than the child's first birthday. (Information courtesy of the 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron)



New playground



Photo by Mark Bates

Steve Turner Jr. displays his physical prowess as he blazes through the new Porter Playground that opened last week.

Leader gets new look

By Maj. Stephanie Y. Bindemann  
386th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

Southwest Asia – The 386th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander is sporting a new, low maintenance haircut after his Operations and Support Flight rose to a challenge he made.

Maj. Gerald “Butch” Ray challenged the flight to have less than 15 open purchase requests at any one time during their deployment and they accomplished it in ten days. The prize was allowing the entire section to take turns buzzing his head.

“I was looking for some new motivation,” said Major Ray. “We like to have fun in contracting while we get our mission done and this seemed like a fun way to motivate the troops.”

The 386th ECONS handles all the construction, services and commodities procurements for the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. Last year they awarded more than \$54 million in new contracts. Since October, there have been 646 new contracting actions totaling more than \$11.2 million.

Major Ray challenged his flight to close their open commitments. “If there is a backlog of 50 or 60 purchase requests, it takes longer to get to the customers’ requirements,” he explained. “With less open requirements, we can get customers



Second Lt. Geoffrey Levine

Second Lt. Geoffrey Levine shaves the 386th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander, Maj. Gerald Ray’s, head after his section successfully met a goal set by Major Ray.

their requirements in less time.”

The Airmen from this rotation closed 51 open purchase requests in ten days. So, they got to shave his head. During the last rotation, his Operations and Support Flight got below 25 open actions and Major Ray along with his superintendent, Master Sgt. Tina Crosby, bought pizza for the flight.

Master Sgt. Leroy Griffith, flight chief explained, “The flight worked long exhausting hours voluntarily. I just have a great crew of hard

workers. We were motivated by being the first section to accomplish this difficult task and we all wanted to see Major Ray with a Mohawk!”

Major Ray’s family was shocked when they saw pictures of his new haircut. “My wife likes hair a little more than I anticipated, but after her initial shock, she was supportive as always.” Major Ray was on the phone with his two children when his wife shared the pictures with them. “I heard the phone hit the floor and a lot of squealing.”

NOTES, From A1

Force dependents accepted to or attending college in the mainland for the academic year 2006-2007. The application deadline is Mar. 10. For more information, call Merlyn Bacungan at 449-0300.

**Housing Self-Help** – The Hickam Family Housing Brochure, Section 10, states “No self-help project may be initiated until written approval is received.” All self-help work (sheds, fences, trampolines, basketball hoops, window air conditioners, TV satellite dishes etc.) require submittal of Air Force Form 332. The standard fencing authorized is four feet high chain-link. Bamboo, skirting, aluminum slats, sun screens, wood, and all other materials are not authorized and must be removed.

SAVES, From A1

see, because he was wearing a black shirt and black shorts. We were just lucky that he was a hundred yards over to the right when I saw him. When a wave came up, I saw him in the middle of the wave.” Coast Guard boats and helicopters rode right over top of him. “It was really nasty out there that day,” said Chief Rose. “I didn’t really know this guy, but I have seen him around the harbor. I knew he was a young army guy with a family. I wouldn’t have liked finding his body out there. I was really happy when we saw him and he was moving.” Pfc. Montana was found 1.2 miles south, off of the main Hickam buoy out in the blue water. He had drifted a mile and his jet ski drifted six miles.

A new standard for trampoline installation requires that safety netting be installed on all trampolines or they must be removed immediately. Courtesy notices and citations will be issued for these violations. For more information, contact Barrett Tuck at 448-3118. **College** – The University of Oklahoma offers a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics. Call 449-6364 for more information. **AFSA meeting** – The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1550 General Membership Meeting is held the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. at J.R. Rockers. The next meeting is Tuesday. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Manky

Kirkpatrick at 449-6860 ext. 104 or Master Sgt. David McCoy at 449-8378. **Luncheon** – The Society of Military Widows monthly luncheon Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Hee Hing Restaurant at 449 Kapahulu Avenue. All military widows are invited. Current members are encouraged to bring a guest. The cost is \$20. For more information, call 988-7707. **Scuba diving** – The Island Divers Hawaii is offering a free discover scuba diving weekend. Three sessions are available Saturday at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. To reserve a spot, call 423-8222 or stop by the dive center next to the fitness center. Space is limited, so reserve a spot today. **Poetry contest** –

Hickam residents can win \$1,000 by writing a poem. Hollywood’s Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest that is open to everyone. To enter a poem of 21 lines or less, mail the poem to: Free Poetry Contest 1626 N. Wilcox Ave. #126 Hollywood, CA 90028 Contestants can also enter online at [www.famouspoets.com](http://www.famouspoets.com) The deadline for entering is Mar. 18. The winners list will be posted online. **Dining Out** – The Univ. of Hawaii’s ROTC program will host a Dining Out and Alumni reunion Mar. 4. To reserve a seat at the event, send an email [levien@hawaii.edu](mailto:levien@hawaii.edu) by Tuesday.

TAX CENTER, From A1

any Form 1096 (Mortgage Interest Statement). If the following apply to the filer, contact the Tax Center for advice on documents required to prepare your tax return: If the filer owns rental property, or if the filer sold or purchased real property in Tax Year 2005. **Miscellaneous:** Education expenses (Form 1096-Ts, and any other educational expenses that may have incurred in TY 2005); charitable contributions; moving expenses (unreimbursed only); Records reflecting any inheritance; and unreimbursed business expenses. **Power of Attorney (POA):** If the filer’s spouse is unable to personally sign the tax return. This can be a general POA or a special POA (both of which must be notarized), or an IRS Form 2848 (does not require a notary). People can obtain POAs from the legal office or download copies of the IRS Form 2848 from <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf> or pick up a copy at the tax center. **Direct deposit:** If the filers want to have their refunds electronically deposited, they must bring a voided check or the bank’s routing number and their account number. For more information, call the tax center at 448-0712 or the legal office at 449-1737.



Damage to property

An Army retiree reported damage to her boat. Estimated cost of damage: \$250.

Damage to government property, theft of private property, and breaking and entering

An active-duty Air Force member reported someone had broken into his office. Further assessment revealed a jug containing \$500 of change was also found missing.

Damage to property

An active-duty Air Force member reported damage to her vehicle. Estimated cost of damage: less than \$500.

Housebreaking, damage to government property, larceny and damage to property

Two Air Force civilian employees reported the storage room in billeting was broken into. Further assessment revealed the door to the storage room was found ajar and miniature liquor bottles and cigarettes cartons were missing. Estimated cost of stolen merchandise: \$582.

Promoting detrimental drug in the third degree

Security Forces apprehended two individual for promoting determinable drug on base.

Theft of private property

An Air Force civilian contractor reported his construction equipment was stolen from a construction site on

base. Estimated cost of stolen equipment: \$2000.

Housebreaking, larceny of government property

An Air Force civilian employee reported an unlawful entry into her office. Further assessment revealed the door was damage and a total of \$20 cash was taken from a lock box.

Damage to property

A retired Air Force member reported his vehicle was damaged in the parking lot of the base exchange.

Damage to property

An Air Force family member reported her vehicle was damaged in the parking area near her quarters.

Theft of private property

A retired Air Force member reported his fanny pack containing envelopes with \$10,000 total were stolen from the Hickam Terminal.

Shoplifting

An Air Force family member was detained by Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$262.

Shoplifting

An Army family member was detained by AAFES store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$29.95.

GRADUATION, From A1

tered four written tests on human resource and organizational management. Each student completed four editing assignments, three briefings, four writing assignments, as well as two interpersonal communication sessions. During their off-duty time, the students assisted the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources by cleaning a three mile stretch of the Kaena Point Hiking Trail. Not only did they clear approximately 500 pounds of trash and debris, they also helped plant 35 trees along the trail. Additionally, the students assisted the faculty with the school sponsored Adopt-a-Highway cleanup program.

Upon graduation from the NCO Academy, each student receives twelve college credits from the Community College of the Air Force. Graduation from the NCO Academy completes the second of four levels of enlist-ed professional military education.

The graduates of NCO Academy Class 06-1 are:

- 15th Civil Engineer Squadron

Christopher Soulies
- 15th Communications Squadron

Christopher Crumpler
- 15th Contracting Squadron

Anthony Weedin
- 15th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Dale Bullock
- 15th Mission Support Squadron

Kelwen Leechung
- 15th Security Forces Squadron

Christopher Holloway
- 17th Operational Weather Squadron

Rodney Jacobs

David Mayer
- 25th Air Support Operations Squadron

Paul Rogers
- 26th Air & Space Intelligence Squadron

Steven Brown
- 44th Aerial Port Squadron

Abraham Mora

56th Air & Space Communications Squadron  
Curtis Gatewood  
Scott Woods

62th Field Investigation Squadron, Detachment 624  
Christopher Martin

324nd Intelligence Squadron  
John Erickson  
James Kistner  
Monica Lefler

352nd Information Operations Squadron  
Travis Goes  
Zak Petrovic

715th Air Mobility Operations Group  
Eugene Doctor

735th Air Mobility Squadron  
Christopher Goodie  
Ricky Barrow

Defense Information Service Agency  
Todd Johnson

Pacific Air Forces  
Ricky Bouse  
Martin Cochran  
Sir Jason Concepcion  
Christopher Dineen  
Steven Durgan  
Belinda Henry  
Brian Mack

Joint Intelligence Center Pacific  
Jocelyn Broussard  
LeRoy Carr  
Fabian Enanoria  
Russell Golobic  
Werner Skyba  
Marshall Stafford  
Robert Stanley  
Thomas Taylor  
Christopher Vanderbilt

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command  
Terry Bottom  
E. Anne Tucker  
M. Christopher Williamson

Kenney Headquarters  
Latress Little  
Richard Jason McInnis  
LaTonya Trotman  
Paul Wren

PACAF Computer Systems Squadron  
Michael Flint

PACAF Regional Supply Squadron  
Scott Thompson  
Angela Young Montgomery

Special Operations Command Pacific  
Ronald Ramirez

U.S. Pacific Command  
Evan Downey  
Moreen Ishikawa  
Bryan Jones  
Tony Nguyen  
Crystal Woodberry

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